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Title: Need to set up a Special Protection Force for the safety of ongoing railway projects in insurgency-hit North Eastern Region.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding delay in implementation of National Projects in the NER generally due to inadequacy of fund allotment as well as difficult terrain and limited working season. More particularly in certain sections like Lumding-Silchar-Agartala, Jiribum-Imphal and part of Rangia-Murkongselek regular extortion, kidnapping and attack by insurgent groups play a major role in delay. It is, therefore, observed that unless the Union Government constitute an independent security agency specifically for this purpose comprising trained persons from Assam Government and Tripura Government, paramilitary forces and RPF, the implementation of these Railway projects will never get reality. Moreover, taking advantage of the ongoing gauge conversion work, the NF Railway has avoided the regular maintenance, upgradation of service and passenger amenities in the Lumding-Silchar and Rangia-Murkongselek section of metre gauge line.

I, therefore, urge upon the PMO and the Home Ministry to form a special protection force exclusively for the purpose of executing these National Projects. Railway authorities is also urged to concentrate on regular maintenance and upgradation of service as well as passenger amenities so that passenger do not suffer till guage conversion is completed.